image for Indian export products abroad.

(vi) With a view to improving the level and scope of incentives to the Indian exporters against their actual export performance, Special Import Licence entitlement of Export House/ Trading House/Star Trading House/ Super Star Trading House has been increased by 18 across the board and the number of itmes on the SIL list have also been increased.

**Targets fixed for export of basmati rice**

*259. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets of export of basmati rice fixed for the year 1996-97;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to boost export of basmati rice; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) An export target of 4,25,000 MTs of Basmati rice valued at Rs. 900 Crores has been fixed for the year 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of basmati rice include removal of Minimum Export Price (MEP) and quantity restrictions, stregthening of quality control, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/ exhibitions.

**Demand for Increase in Quota of Rice and Wheat for Kerala**

*260. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has requested for increase in the quota of rice and wheat for PDS; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the decision taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has requested for increase in allocation of rice and wheat vide their letter dated 29.7.96 as under:—

| | Existing Allocation per month (in '000 MT) | Allocation requested by State Govt. per month (in '000 MT) |
|---|---|---|
| Rice | 150.00 | 125.00 (from July, 96 to Dec., 96) |
| | | 150.00 (from Jan., 97 to Dec. 97) |
| Wheat | 50.00 | 60.00 (from July, 96 to June, 97) |

However, keeping in view, the overall availability of wheat and the requirements of various States/UTs, it was decided to reduce the allocation of wheat from 50,000 MT to 45,000 MT for the month of November, 1996 and to increase the allocation of rice by an equal amount, since Kerala is basically rice consuming State. On the same basis, the allocation of wheat was further reduced from 45,000 MT to 42,000 MT for the month of December, 1996 and allocation for rice increased correspondingly.